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The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Letter dated 23 July 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In addition to the previous letters of 28 June, 5 July (A/61/991-S/2007/410), 9 July 2007 (A/61/1000-S/2007/422) and 20 July 2007 (A/61/1006-S/2007/452), I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding the so-called "presidential elections" held in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan on 19 July 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be urgently distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 27, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ilham **Aghayev**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 23 July 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Russian]

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

The Republic of Azerbaijan welcomes the principled and unequivocal position clearly expressed by the international community with regard to the so-called "presidential elections" held in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 19 July 2007. By reaffirming its unswerving respect for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and rejecting these illegal "elections", the international community has given a clear message to those who try to capitalize on the suffering of the displaced Azerbaijani population. Azerbaijan shares the concerns of its international partners about the negative effect of the illegal "elections" on the ongoing peace process.

Another attempt by the Republic of Armenia to camouflage its annexation policy and occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan ended in a complete and unavoidable failure. By its deeds, the Armenian side misleads no one but its own society. The international community is well aware of the situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The Republic of Azerbaijan shall never accept a solution based on a fait accompli, which the Armenian side is trying to impose. The conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan can be solved only on the basis of respect for the territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan and the peaceful coexistence of the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region within Azerbaijan, enjoying the benefits of democracy and prosperity fully and equally.

Azerbaijan expects that after Saint Petersburg's failure to accept the relevant proposals of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group Co-Chairmen, the Armenian side will reconsider its approach and take a constructive course.

Azerbaijan once again calls on the Armenian side to cease its destructive policies and, instead of wasting precious time, to negotiate in good faith with a view to finding a durable solution to the conflict as soon as possible.

Baku, 20 July 2007